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***** EDITORIAL ***** by John P. Kellas

As newly appointed Corresponding Secretary & Editor of the "H & T", the hope is to expand the newssheet by including current news articles as they brake on the Philatelic scene. I also wish to extend an invitation to RPA members to write short, concise articles on any field of philately. Maybe you have an expertise you could share with the rest of the membership! Or perhaps you have a question of a philatelic nature that could be printed with a response in a later issue. If you have a real "itching" to write for the "H & T" please submit your article by the first of each month to the address below. We want to reflect your interests, so please take some time and write for the "H & T"!!!

John P. Kellas c/o Rochester Philatelic Association, P.O. Box 3806, Brighton Station, Rochester, N.Y. 14610

***** MARCH MEETINGS *****

March 10: "MY FAVORITE COVER NIGHT"

This meeting will feature your own favorite cover! We ask that each member bring in their favorite cover and show it off. Maybe you have more than one cover to show - the more the better. Please bring in any type of covers, be they unusual, different, historical, unique, or show errors. If its on a cover, we like to see it and have you explain your covers briefly.

March 24: "BUYER'S MARKET BOARD"

Something different-- The return of the "Buyer's Market Board" program. The "Board" is an arrangement of philatelic material from RPA members that are pre-priced ready for sale to interested buyers. This is your chance to sell or buy. Members may submit up to 10 pre-priced lots, limited in size by a No. 6 glassine (6 1/2 x 3 3/4). Please label your lots with your RPA # and any important information about your lot. Your lots will then be displayed. A RPA officer will act as a cashier logging RPA #s as sales are made. ALL lots must be in by 8:20 pm which will be the start of the sale. At the end of the sale (about 9:15 pm) the cashier will return unsold lots to their owners along with the proceeds from lots sold. Donation lots are welcomed

***** R.P.A. 1977 DUES *****

Please renew your RPA membership (\$3.50/yr., \$1.00/jr./yr.) by paying your dues at either March meetings or by sending a check to Rochester Philatelic Association c/o Bill Erwin, P.O. Box 3006, Brighton Station, Rochester, N.Y. 14610.

***** ANNUAL BANQUET *****

Mark April 29th down in your calendars! The Annual Banquet & Auction will be held at the "French Quarters" in the Village Mall, East Rochester. The Banquet will feature a buffet with ROAST BEEF as the main entree, starting about 6:00pm. Tickets are \$6/person and can be purchased at either March meetings from Dr. Joel. Auction lots must be submitted to the auctioneer before or during the RPA's April 14th meeting!! Lots will not be accepted after the April 14 meeting!! Public Bus transportation is available with the last bus leaving for Midtown at 10:25pm. BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW, DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.

***** NEW U.S. ISSUE DUE MARCH 11th ***

Scheduled to make an appearance at INTERPEX '77 (at New York City's Americana Hotel) March 11-13 is the new \$1.00 vending machine booklet. The Booklet will feature a new 13¢ stamp that displays in red, white, and blue the 50 star flag on the upper half and an angled view of the Capital Complex on the lower half. There will be a single pane of eight new stamps and a second pane with seven new stamps plus one 9¢ stamp of the 'Freedom to Assemble' issue in the Americana series. The 9¢ stamp will be printed in green ink on the white stock used for the pane, thus affecting a color change when compared to the current 9¢ issue used for the postcard rate. The U.S.P.S. has instituted some specific stipulations for this particular issue for those collecting First Day Covers, in addition to the new F.D.C. policy started with the "Battle of Princeton" issue of January '77. Booklet will be available from Postal vending machines or from the Philatelic Sales Division. For detailed information about F.D.C.s consult the March issues of Linn's or other Philatelic newspapers (New York Times, Feb. 27, Sec. 2).

***** R.P.A. LIBRARY *****

Do you have any suggestions for new additions (BOOKS) to the Library? We're not mind readers, so let us know. Also please remember to return books to the Library so that other members can check them out to.

***** WELCOME TO DESIGN A STAMP ***

The U.S.P.S. is looking for ideas for stamps in the Americana series like the present 9¢ 'Freedom to Assemble' issue. The interest is primarily in subjects, since the format for the design has already been established. Perhaps RPA members could pool their resources and present a dozen or more ideas which could be submitted to the U.S.P.S. Stamp Development Branch!!! A factor in the design concept is that a set of stamps, when mounted in an album, would appear like a block enclosed in a frame made by the texts flowing in four different directions. The design element should be simple and almost speak for itself. The text can be no more than 48 units, counting letters and spaces. There is no reason for suggestions for texts or design being separate. You can put them together & create a whole stamp! For all you closet stamp designers here, your chance to make it good in 1977!